Financial issues including the sharing of the project costs were discussed during these meetings. The total cost of the project for three phases has been assessed as US $700 million. However, there has been no further progress. The implementation of the project has not started.

Coastal highways in Gujarat

2506. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though Gujarat has 25 per cent of the country's coast line with many ports, all sections of the coastal highway along this coast have not been upgraded to National Highways;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether Government accept the necessity of upgrading the coastal highways of Gujarat; and

(d) if so, within what time frame is the upgradation planned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD . RANSPORTAND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The declaration of any road as National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs along the coast but on several other considerations including traffic needs, *inter-se* priority on all India basis and availability of resources. Notwithstanding the above, a length of approximately 732 kilometer running along the coast line in Gujarat has already been converted into National Highways. This includes 370 kilometer declared as National Highways in February 2004.

Pradhan Mantri Bharat Joro Pariyojana

†2507. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to connect the capital cities of all the States through NHDP a four lane Highways would be constructed under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Joro Priyojana;

(b) whether it is a fact that NHDP road passes through Muzaffarpur North to Patna, and in the South the Golden Quadrilateral road passes through Bodhgaya; and

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government propose to connect Patna with Bodhgaya in the South and Muzaffarpur in the North through four lane Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. All the State capitals which have not been connected with National Highways Development Project (NHDP) are proposed to be connected with NHDP by a four lane road essentially on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Priyojana (PMBJP).

(b) East-West Corridor being constructed under NHDP passes through Muzaffarpur. The Golden Quadrilateral does not pass through Bodhgaya, however, National Highway No. 2 being developed under Golden Quadrilateral passes through Dobhi in Bihar, which is about 20 km. away from Bodhgaya. Dobhi is connected with Bodhgaya by a two-lane National Highway.

(c) There is a proposal to connect Muzaffarpur with Patna by a four lane highway on BOT basis under PMBJP. There is however no proposal to connect Patna with Bodhgaya by four lane road.

Damage of roads by flood in Bihar

†2508. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Highways from Pingore to Beldar in district Khagaria (8 kms.), Badia to Nakarpala, Karache to Badia to Nakarpala, Karache to Badia Tatbandh, Saharsa to Mansi have been damaged due to flood; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to repair these Highways and by when the work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways. Only, the road from Saharsa to Mansi *via* Mahesh Kunt is National Highway, which has been damaged due to overtopping of floodwater. Pingore to Beldar, Badia to Nakarpala and Karache to Badia Tatbandh roads are not part of National Highway network.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.